

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in the specification:

1-28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) A method of determining ~~feline or canine~~ proBNP or fragments thereof comprising:

providing a ~~feline or canine~~ sample;

contacting the sample with at least one antibody ~~which, when determining feline proBNP, or fragments thereof, binds to at least one epitope in the region comprising amino acids 20 to 42 and/or in the region comprising amino acids 57 to 80 of feline proBNP, and when determining canine proBNP, or fragments thereof, that binds to at least one epitope in the region comprising~~ consisting of amino acids 20 to 86 of canine proBNP; and

determining the presence and/or concentration of the ~~feline or canine~~ proBNP, or fragments thereof, present in the sample.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29, wherein ~~when determining canine proBNP or fragments thereof, the at least one antibody binds to at least one epitope in the region comprising~~ consisting of amino acids 25 to 41, 32 to 48, ~~and/or in the region comprising amino acids 55 to 65, and/or in the region comprising amino acids~~ or 74 to 86 of the canine proBNP.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the at least one epitope comprises at least 3 amino acids.

33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29, wherein the at least one antibody is polyclonal ~~and/or monoclonal~~.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein at least one further antibody binds to the at least one antibody or to the at least one epitope.
35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the at least one antibody and/or the at least one further antibody is labeled.
36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the at least one antibody and/or the at least one further antibody is labeled with peroxidase, biotin, fluorescent dye, gold colloid, or a radionuclide.
37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the at least one antibody or the at least one further antibody is bound to a solid phase.
38. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29, wherein the determination of ~~feline or~~ canine proBNP or of fragments thereof comprises radioimmunoassay, immune binding assay, Western blot, immunohistochemistry, enzyme immunoassay, and/or a lateral flow device.
- 39-46. (Canceled)
47. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
obtaining an antibody or an antibody mixture that binds to at least one epitope in the
region ~~comprising amino acids 20 to 42 and/or in the region comprising amino~~
~~acids 57 to 80 of the feline proBNP and/or the region comprising~~ consisting of
amino acids 20 to 86 of the canine proBNP; and
employing it in a method of claim 29.
- 48-56. (Canceled)
57. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the at least one antibody binds to at least one epitope in the region consisting of amino acids 32 to 48 of the canine proBNP.
58. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the at least one antibody is monoclonal.